junasagar-Tirupati has also been identified for intensive development under the National Action Plan for Tourism.

Decongestion of Trunk Routes

1401. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director-General of Civil Aviation is dragging its feet on the air taxi Operators' (ATC) proposal for staggering flights in a bid to decongest the trunk routes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the broad features of the proposed staggering plan; and

(d) the reaction of the DGCAhis, Ministry thereto and how it is ultimately proposed to tackle the situa tion particularly during the peak hours on the Bombay-Delhi trunk route and balk down the constant fear of mid-air collision presently gripping the frequent air passengers on this busy route?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHU LAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The staggering of flights is planned to ensure:

(i) Availability of warking bays to aircraft.

(ii) Availability of adequate passenger terminal capacity and baggage conveyor btlts.

(iii) Air Traffic control to handle the permitted flights.

(d) Approval of operating schedule of the operators after taking into account the above aspects will help in maintaining standard separation between the aircraft flying on any route in accordance with the provisions Said down by International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Decline jn I passengers

1402. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of 'ClVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be plea_ sed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that volume of pasengers travelling by Indian Airlines has declined in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps Government would like to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIA_ TOIN AND' TOURISM (SHRI GHU. LAM NABI AZAD); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The passenger carriage by-Indian Airlines has declined recently, mainly due to the loss of market to ATOs. Following are the major steps taken to improve the performance of Indian Airlines:—

(i) Product Improvements

— Improvement in service both on ground and on board.

— Improvement In passenger comfort by increasing seat pitch in Economy Class of A-300.

— Introduction of Business Class in A-300 aicrraft.

(ii) Pricing and Distribution Strategies

—- Incentives[conces(sidns introduced for customers and agents.

— Setting up of Sales Forces to generate more business.

(iii) Organisational Improvements

— Changes in the organisation structure and Systems to enable a speedy and cohesive response to the environment.